



MARINE FORECAST CONTENT

Marine Forecasts are valid for 26 hours with an outlook for an additional 24-hour period.

Synopsis

Located at the beginning of the marine forecast, it describes the location and intensity of the weather systems which will affect the Alaskan coastal waters and indicates what their movements will be during the forecast and outlook period.

Wind Speed

The average winds that are expected over open water, given in knots. **Gusts** are mentioned when they are expected to be much higher than the average winds. Due to the rugged coastline of Alaska, considerable local variations from the forecast winds are possible.

Wind Direction

The direction from which the wind is blowing. Direction is based on true north, not magnetic bearings.

Sea State

A combination of wind wave and swell height, given in feet. Wind waves are waves generated by the local wind, and swells are long waves formed from a distant storm.

Weather and Visibility

Forecasts for rain, snow, showers, freezing spray, and fog are included, followed by a statement about visibility if it is expected to be below 1 nautical mile.

Outlook

Describes the winds and seas during the 24-hour period following the main forecast.

Extended Forecast

Describes the highest daily wind speed expected on days 3 to 5.

SAFE BOATING

Before Setting Out:

1. Check local weather and sea conditions.
2. Get the latest marine weather forecast for your area.
3. When warnings are in effect, do not go out unless you are confident your boat can be navigated safely under forecast conditions.

After Setting Out:

1. Watch the weather for:
 - the approach of dark, threatening clouds which may foretell a squall or thunderstorm.
 - a steady increase in wind or sea
 - any increase in wind opposite in direction to a strong tidal current, which may lead to steep waves.
2. Check NOAA Weather Radio broadcasts for the latest warnings, forecasts, and observations.
3. Pay close attention to updates or changes in the marine weather forecast.

MARINER'S WEATHER GUIDE

Gulf of Alaska Coastal Waters

Including
the Inside Passage
Prince William Sound and
the Kodiak Island Waters



MARINE ADVISORY AND WARNING CRITERIA

Small Craft Advisory:	24 - 33 knots
Small Craft Advisory Due to Seas:	8 feet or higher
Gale Warning:	34 - 47 knots
Storm Warning:	48 - 63 knots
Hurricane Force Wind Warning*:	64 knots or higher

*Hurricane Force Wind Warning does **not** imply the presence of a hurricane, but only refers to winds 64 knots or higher.

Special Marine Warning:

Issued when a potentially hazardous over-water event, usually of short duration (up to 2 hours), is imminent and is not adequately covered by existing warnings and forecasts.



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